

GLOSSARY

ACCESS: A Central Computerized Enforcement Service System used by law enforcement agencies.

ALTERNATE STATE WARNING POINT: The state designated and FEMA approved facility located in WSP Communications Center, Yakima. It assumes operational control of the NAWAS as directed by the state Warning Officer and/or EM Duty Officer. It is capable of communicating directly with the National Warning Center, other FEMA Regions, other states and all primary warning points in Washington.

ATTACK WARNING SIGNAL: A 3 to 5 minute wavering tone on sirens, or series of short blasts on horns or other devices, repeated as deemed necessary, signifying that an actual attack against this country has been detected and that protective action should be taken immediately.

ATTENTION OR ALERT SIGNAL: A 3 to 5 minute steady tone, signifying a high probability of danger other than enemy attack, i.e., storm, severe weather, etc, and that the public should listen to a local broadcast radio station for essential emergency information.

DUPLICATE WARNING POINT: A locally designated and FEMA approved facility having identical NAWAS equipment as a Primary Warning Point and is usually co-located or in close proximity to the Primary Warning Point. Normally, the Duplicate Warning Point is an Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The Duplicate Warning Point will assume the primary responsibility should the Primary Warning Point be non-operational or as directed by local procedures. Criteria for being a DWP is provided in FEMA CPG 1-14, Principles of Warning and Criteria Governing Eligibility for NAWAS Service.

DUTY OFFICER: Member of the state Emergency Management staff available through the 24-hour emergency telephone number 1-800-258-5990 or (253) 912-4901 to provide appropriate coordination/notification as required.

EAS: Emergency Alert System. Established to enable the President, federal, state, and local authorities to disseminate emergency information to the public via the Commercial Broadcast System.

NATURAL DISASTER WARNING: A warning of an impending unusual incident resulting from natural causes, which may endanger the health, safety, or resources of residents of a particular area.

NAWAS: National Warning System. The federal portion of the Civil Defense Warning System, used for the dissemination of warnings and other emergency

information from the National or FEMA Region Warning Centers to Warning Points in each state. Also used by the State Warning Points to disseminate information to local Primary Warning Points.

NECC: National Emergency Coordination Center

NUDET: Nuclear detonation.

PRIMARY STATE WARNING POINT: The state designated and FEMA approved 24-hour facility located in the state Emergency Management, Emergency Operations Center (EOC). It is capable of communicating directly with the National Warning Center, other FEMA Regions, other states and all primary warning points in Washington.

PRIMARY WARNING POINT: A locally designated and FEMA approved 24-hour staffed facility having NAWAS equipment capable of receiving warning information from several sources, including the National Warning Center, and disseminating it according to established procedures. Normally a public safety communications/dispatch center (law, fire, 9-1-1) will serve as the Primary Warning Point. Criteria for being a PWP is provided in FEMA CPG 1-14, Principles of Warning and Criteria Governing Eligibility for NAWA Service.

PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY: Any governmental agency, other than federal, charged with the responsibility for alleviation of an emergency endangering life and property. For example: police, fire, civil defense, county engineer, highway and street department, special emergency and rescue organizations, disaster relief organizations, etc.

RADEF WARNING: A warning of radiological hazard.

SECONDARY WARNING POINT: A locally designated 24-hour staffed facility that receives warning information from a Primary Warning Point and further disseminates the warning information according to established procedures. A Secondary Warning Point does not have a NAWAS capability.

TELCO: Telephone Company.

TERTIARY WARNING POINT: A facility (third level) that receives warning information from a Secondary Warning Point and further disseminates the warning information according to established procedures. A tertiary warning point does not have NAWAS capability.

WARNING: Warning is the alerting of government authorities, emergency service agencies and the public to the threat of extraordinary danger and the related effects of both natural and enemy-caused disasters.

WARNING OFFICER: The local Emergency Management staff member, either state or local, who is responsible for providing for the receipt and further dissemination of warnings of all types and for determining methods of warning citizens and alerting governmental offices. He/she is charged with supervising the warning activities and preparing warning plans and developing warning systems.

WARNING OPERATORS: Personnel employed by the local public safety agency as dispatchers or watch commanders who are responsible for the receipt, acknowledgement, and further dissemination of warning information.

WARNING POINT: A facility that receives warnings and other emergency information over NAWAS and/or other sources and relays this information in accordance with state and local emergency plans to government authorities, emergency service agencies, and the public. Works closely with emergency management officials in ensuring that government authorities and the public are notified of emergency/disaster situations which may threaten and/or affect the public's welfare and safety.

WARNING POINT SUPERVISOR: Person designated by the local public safety agency to be responsible for warning point operator training and to assist the warning officer as required, including acting for him in his absence.

ZULU (Z) TIME: (Greenwich Mean Time) (Coordinated Universal Time). The mean solar time at the Greenwich Meridian, England. See the time conversion chart, Tab 6, Attachment 6.

METEOROLOGICAL TERMS

AVALANCHE WARNING: See Extreme Avalanche Hazard.

BLIZZARD WARNING: Considerable falling and/or blowing snow and winds of at least 35 miles per hour are expected for several hours. Also see Winter Storm Warning.

COASTAL FLOOD WARNING: Warns of significant wind-forced flooding expected along low-lying coastal areas within 12 hours. Some damage to beaches, roads, and marinas is possible.

DENSE FOG ADVISORY: Visibilities less than 1/4 mile for a widespread area.

DUST STORM WARNING or BLOWING DUST ADVISORY: Visibilities less than 1/2 mile. A WARNING is issued for the most serious events.

EXTREME AVALANCHE HAZARD: (Avalanche Warning). Widespread areas of unstable snow exist and avalanches are certain on some snow-covered open slopes and gullies. Large destructive avalanches are possible. Back country travel should be

avoided.

FLASH FLOOD: Means the occurrence of a rapid dangerous rise in water level of a stream or over a land area in a few hours or less, caused by heavy rain, ice jam breakup, earthquake or dam failure.

FLASH FLOOD WATCH: Flash flooding is possible within the watch area, but occurrence is neither certain or imminent. Citizens should be alerted to the possibility of a flood emergency which will require immediate action.

FLASH FLOOD WARNING: Means that flash flooding is occurring or is imminent on certain streams or designated areas and immediate action should be taken by those threatened.

FLOOD POTENTIAL OUTLOOK: Issued if conditions indicate a potential for flooding in 36-72 hours.

FLOOD STATEMENT: Updated or revised information issued periodically during flood watch/warning period, and used to cancel a flood watch/warning.

FLOOD WATCH: Conditions suggest potential for flooding to occur in 12-36 hours. The statement will name specific rivers for the watch.

FLOOD WARNING: Flooding is forecast to occur within 12 hours on specific rivers. This is issued when rivers are forecast to crest at or above established flood stage; or in the absence of an established flood stage, at a stage when action may need to be taken.

FREEZING RAIN ADVISORY: Ice conditions make roads, sidewalks, etc. hazardous or causes tree branches and power lines to break. See also Ice Storm Warning.

FUNNEL CLOUD: A rotating column of air forming a pendant from a cumulus/cumulonimbus cloud with circulation not reaching the ground.

GALE WARNING: (Marine). Issued when sustained winds or frequent gusts are expected to be between 34 and 47 knots (39 to 54 mph). Also see Whole Gale Warning.

HEAVY SNOW WARNING: A lowland snowfall of at least 4 inches or more in 12 hours or 6 inches in 24 hours is expected. In the mountains, heavy snow is 12 inches in 12 hours. Also see Winter Storm Warning.

Guidelines:

First storm of the season, late spring, or after a long spell without snow, 4 inches or more in 12 hours or 6 inches or more in 24 hours.

Non-mountainous areas any time of year, 4 inches or more in 12 hours or 6 inches or more in 24 hours.

Cascades and Olympics (above 2000 feet) when first guideline doesn't apply, 12 inches or more in 12 hours or 18 inches or more in 24 hours.

All other mountainous regions when first guideline doesn't apply, 6 inches or more in 12 hours or 10 inches or more in 24 hours.

HIGH SURF ADVISORY: Swells of 20 feet or more are occurring or forecast to occur within 12 hours in coastal areas, and is issued in a Marine Weather Statement. Early in the storm season, an ADVISORY may be issued for swells of 15 feet or more.

HIGH WIND WARNING: Winds of at least 40 mph or gusts to 55 mph are expected within the next 12 hours to last for one hour or more.

HIGH WIND WATCH: High winds may occur in an area predicted within 12-36 hours.

HURRICANE WARNING: (Marine) Sustained winds from a tropical storm forecast to be above 64 knots (74 mph).

ICE STORM WARNING: Ice accumulations of 1/4 inch or more. More serious than a Freezing Rain Advisory. Also see Winter Storm Warning.

MARINE WEATHER STATEMENT: Highlights short-term or long-term hazardous or potentially hazardous marine weather conditions, provides follow-up information, or updates the occurrence of weather events. Heavy Surf Advisories or Minor Tidal Overflow Statements are issued as Marine Weather Statements.

RIVER STATEMENT: Issued when there is a high state of flood awareness or public concern about potential flooding.

SEISMIC SEA WAVE: See Tsunami.

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM: A thunderstorm with winds of 50 knots or more and/or hail 3/4 inch in diameter or larger. Structural wind damage may infer the occurrence of a severe thunderstorm. A thunderstorm with winds equal to or greater than 35 knots and/or hail equal to or greater than 1/2 inch in diameter is defined as approaching severe.

SEVERE WEATHER STATEMENT: Statements by National Weather Service providing information on severe local weather conditions from thunderstorms.

SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY: (Marine) Winds expected to be between 21 to 33 knots (24 to 36 mph). Also issued for sea and swell conditions of 10 feet or more, and for

rough harbor bar conditions.

SNOW ADVISORY: Lighter amounts of snowfall which may cause hazardous driving problems, including metropolitan areas such as Seattle and Tacoma.

Guidelines:

All areas except mountains: 1-3 inches in 12 hours or 3-5 inches in 24 hours.

Cascades and Olympics: 6-11 inches in 12 hours or 11-17 inches in 24 hours.

All other mountainous areas: 4-5 inches in 12 inches or 5-9 inches in 24 hours.

SPECIAL MARINE WARNING: Short duration (up to 2 hours) sustained wind or frequent gusts of 34 knots or more (40 mph or more) usually involved with severe or approaching severe thunderstorms, or tornados/waterspouts.

SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENT: Information statement of watches or warnings following the initial notification.

STORM WARNING: (Marine). This is the highest level of marine warning (other than hurricane warnings issued in tropical climates) and is issued when average wind speeds are expected to exceed 48 knots (55 mph). (Hurricane force winds 75 mph or more are included in a Storm Warning for our coast).

TORNADO: A violent rotating column of air, usually forming a pendant from a cumulonimbus cloud with circulation reaching the ground. It nearly always starts as a funnel cloud and may be accompanied by a loud roaring noise. On a local scale, it is the most destructive of all atmospheric phenomena.

TSUNAMI: (Seismic Sea Wave). A series of ocean waves caused by a seismic disturbance (earthquake) under a body of water such as the Pacific Ocean. The period between waves can vary between 10 to 100 minutes, with estimated arrival times provided in the Tsunami Watch or Warning statement. Both Tsunami Watches and Warnings are disseminated over NAWAS and ACCESS.

WARNINGS AND WATCHES: Warning, watches or advisories may be issued for all types of severe weather (tornados, severe thunderstorms, high winds, winter storm, flash floods).

A WATCH is issued to inform the public that weather conditions are favorable for the development of severe weather. Watches are usually issued well in advance (up to 36 hours) to alert the public of the possibility of severe weather developing.

A WARNING is issued to warn the public that severe weather is forecast to occur

within 12 hours or is occurring. Persons in the warning area should take action to protect their lives and property.

WINTER STORM WARNING: Imminent (within 12 hours) or occurring severe winter weather conditions of one or any combination of heavy amounts of snow, blizzard, heavy accumulations or freezing rain, drizzle, or sleet, damaging arctic wind, or any other life-threatening winter hazard.

WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY: Several winter weather advisories, such as snow, freezing rain, or drizzle, being issued as one product.

STORM DEFINITIONS

BLIZZARD: Wind to 35 mph or more and visibility of 1/4 mile with blowing snow.

DUST STORM : Visibilities of 1/2 mile or less, and wind speeds of 30 mph or more.

FLASH FLOOD: A rapid rise in water level of a stream or over a land area in a few hours or less caused by heavy rain, ice jam breakup, or dam failure.

FUNNEL CLOUD: A rotating column of air coming down from a cumulus or cumulonimbus cloud but not reaching the ground.

HEAVY SNOW: Four inches or more in 12 hours or six inches in 24 hours; in mountainous areas, 12 inches or more in 12 hours.

HIGH WIND: Sustained winds of greater than or equal to 40 mph. Gusts of greater than or equal to 55 mph.

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM: Winds of 50 knots or more, hail 3/4 inch in diameter or larger.

TORNADO: A violent rotating column of air, usually forming a pendent from a cumulonimbus cloud with circulation reaching the ground.